



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/507,353	09/10/2004	Frank Hundscheidt	P16486-US1	5673
27045	7590	07/07/2009	EXAMINER	
ERICSSON INC. 6300 LEGACY DRIVE M/S EVR 1-C-11 PLANO, TX 75024				BALAOING, ARIEL A
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
2617				
			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			07/07/2009	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/507,353	HUNDSCHEIDT ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	ARIEL BALAOING	2617	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 May 2009.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-21 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 10 September 2004 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ . |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ . |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 05/04/2009 has been entered.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to the claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

4. Claims 1, 6, 9-15, 19-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over WINCHELL et al (US 2002/0151321 A1) in view of LAURSEN et al (US 2001/0041556 A1).

Regarding claim 1, WINCHELL discloses a method of managing point-to-multipoint services in a mobile communication network **22** (abstract; paragraph 1-3), said method comprising: receiving from a mobile station [**communication device**] a request for accessing a point-to-multipoint service (Figure 7, 8), said request comprising a subscriber identifier of the subscriber placing the request and a point-to-multipoint

service identifier of the point-to-multipoint service for which access is being requested (paragraph 33, 39, 43, 44; providing a subscriber identifier is inherently necessary to provide both billing and group setup. Parameters and/or mode of a group can be determined by requesting device), storing a subscriber identification for the subscriber placing the request in association with a point-to-multipoint service identification for the point-to-multipoint service for which access is being requested (paragraph 10, 39, 43), performing an access enabling procedure, providing accounting information to an accounting entity [**billing entity**] of said mobile communication network in which accounting for the point-to-multipoint service is performed considering a number of subscribers, who placed the request for accessing the point-to-multipoint service and a provider of the point-to-multipoint service, said accounting information identifying the subscriber who placed the request together with the point-to-multipoint service for which access was requested (paragraph 37, 38, 43; accounting determines a number of subscribers for billing purposes. Furthermore, account information identifies both initiator and group members of a group call). However, WINCHELL does not expressly disclose defining accounting information associating said subscriber identifier with said point-to-multipoint service identifier; and storing said accounting information placing the subscriber in association with the identified point-to-multipoint identification within a point-to-multipoint (PTM) service management entity. In a similar field of endeavor, LAURSEN discloses defining accounting information associating a subscriber identifier with a service identifier (paragraph 62, 72; device ID or subscriber ID is associated with a group ID for account management); and storing said accounting information placing

the subscriber in association with the identified point-to-multipoint identification within a point-to-multipoint (PTM) service management entity **228** (paragraph 62, 72; identification is stored and used by account manager). Therefore it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify WINCHELL to include the teachings of LAURSEN, since such a modification would allow a plurality of groups (point-to-multipoint in view of WINCHELL) to be managed using a single account manager. Furthermore, associating a subscriber to a particular service within a database (e.g. through the use of an HLR) is conventional in the art that allows a home system to determine subscriber services available to an individual.

Regarding claim 6, see the rejections of the parent claim concerning the subject matter this claim is dependent upon. WINCHELL further discloses wherein said accounting is also performed on the basis of the amount of data transported (paragraph 46; billing based on amount of received messages).

Regarding claim 9, see the rejections of the parent claim concerning the subject matter this claim is dependent upon. WINCHELL further discloses wherein after performing said access enabling procedure, waiting for the receipt of a service access confirmation, and said accounting information is only provided to said accounting entity if said service access confirmation is received (paragraph 45, 46; billing based on a recorded usage time).

Regarding claim 10, see the rejections of the parent claim concerning the subject matter this claim is dependent upon. WINCHELL further discloses wherein the

subscriber identifications and associated point-to-multipoint service identifications are stored in a centralized point-to-multipoint service data base for said mobile communication network (paragraph 37, 38; Figure 2; central billing log server).

Regarding claim 11, see the rejections of the parent claim concerning the subject matter this claim is dependent upon. WINCHELL further discloses wherein a classification of point-to-multipoint services into categories is provided, said accounting information identifying the category of the point-to-multipoint service, and said accounting of the point-to-multipoint service is performed depending on the identified category (paragraph 37, 43-45; mode determination).

Regarding claim 12, see the rejections of the parent claim concerning the subject matter this claim is dependent upon. WINCHELL further discloses further comprising storing one or more counter values in association with a stored subscriber identification and/or point-to-multipoint service identification (paragraph 37; participation time).

Regarding claim 13, see the rejections of the parent claim concerning the subject matter this claim is dependent upon. WINCHELL further discloses further comprising: providing said one or more counter values as a part of said accounting information (paragraph 37; participation time).

Regarding claim 14, see the rejections of the parent claim concerning the subject matter this claim is dependent upon. WINCHELL further discloses wherein said one or more counter values comprise one or more of the following: a time counter value associated with said stored subscriber identification, indicating a time period that has passed since receiving said request from said subscriber, a time counter value

associated with said stored point-to-multipoint service identification, indicating a time period that has passed since receiving a first request identifying said point-to-multipoint service, an event counter value associated with said stored subscriber identification, indicating a number of predetermined events that have occurred since receiving a request from said subscriber, and an event counter value associated with each stored point-to-multipoint service identification, indicating a number of predetermined events that have occurred since receiving said first request identifying said point-to-multipoint service (paragraph 37; participation time).

Regarding claim 15, see the rejections of the parent claim concerning the subject matter this claim is dependent upon. WINCHELL further discloses wherein said access enabling procedure comprises: sending an enable signal to a service provision control entity (paragraph 34, 35; communication manager determines if communication device is authorized).

Regarding claim 19, WINCHELL discloses a computer readable medium storing a computer program, the computer program for managing point-to-multipoint services in a mobile communication network (abstract; paragraph 1-3), the computer program product comprising: instructions for receiving from a mobile station a request for accessing a point-to-multipoint service (Figure 7, 8), said request comprising a subscriber identifier of the subscriber placing the request and a point-to-multipoint service identifier of the point-to-multipoint service for which access is being requested (paragraph 33, 39, 43, 44; providing a subscriber identifier is inherently necessary to provide both billing and group setup. Parameters and/or mode of a group can be

determined by requesting device), instructions for storing a subscriber identification for the subscriber placing the request in association with a point-to-multipoint service identification for the point-to-multipoint service for which access is being requested (paragraph 39, 43), instructions for performing an access enabling procedure (paragraph 43, 44), and instructions for providing accounting information to an accounting entity [**billing module**] of said mobile communication network in which accounting for the point-to-multipoint service is performed considering a number of subscribers, who placed the request for accessing the point-to-multipoint service and a provider of the point-to-multipoint service (paragraph 10, 37, 38, 43), said accounting information identifying the subscriber who placed the request together with the point-to-multipoint service for which access was requested (paragraph 37, 38, 43; a number of subscribers is determined for billing purposes. Furthermore, account information identifies both initiator and group members of a group call). However, WINCHELL does not expressly disclose defining accounting information associating said subscriber identifier with said point-to-multipoint service identifier; and storing said accounting information placing the subscriber in association with the identified point-to-multipoint identification within a point-to-multipoint (PTM) service management entity. In a similar field of endeavor, LAURSEN discloses defining accounting information associating a subscriber identifier with a service identifier (paragraph 62, 72; device ID or subscriber ID is associated with a group ID for account management); and storing said accounting information placing the subscriber in association with the identified point-to-multipoint identification within a point-to-multipoint (PTM) service management entity **228**

(paragraph 62, 72; identification is stored and used by account manager). Therefore it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify WINCHELL to include the teachings of LAURSEN, since such a modification would allow a plurality of groups (point-to-multipoint in view of WINCHELL) to be managed using a single account manager. Furthermore, associating a subscriber to a particular service within a database (e.g. through the use of an HLR) is conventional in the art that allows a home system to determine subscriber services available to an individual.

Regarding claim 20, WINCHELL discloses an accounting entity of a mobile communication network **22**, said accounting entity comprising: a receiver for receiving accounting information (abstract; paragraph 1-3; it is further noted that a receiver, memory and processor would inherently be necessary to process and store detailed billing records and account information), said accounting information identifying a subscriber placing a request for a point-to-multipoint service, and identifying a point-to-multipoint service for which access was requested a processor for performing accounting for the point-to-multipoint service identified in the accounting information considering a number of subscribers, who placed the request for accessing the point-to-multipoint service and a provider of the point-to-multipoint service (paragraph 33, 39, 43, 44; providing a subscriber identifier is inherently necessary to provide both billing and group setup. Parameters and/or mode of a group can be determined by requesting device), wherein said processor is arranged such that if said accounting information indicates the number of subscribers corresponding to all or a predetermined part of the

subscribers currently stored by a point-to-multipoint service data base entity in association with said point-to-multipoint service, said accounting depends on the indicated number of subscribers (paragraph 37, 38, 43; a number of subscribers is determined for billing purposes. Furthermore, account information identifies both initiator and group members of a group call). However, WINCHELL does not expressly disclose wherein said accounting information further associating said subscriber identifier with said point-to-multipoint service identifier by a point-to-multipoint service data base entity. In a similar field of endeavor, LAURSEN discloses wherein accounting information associates subscriber identifier with a service identifier by a service data base entity **228** (paragraph 62, 72; device ID or subscriber ID is associated with a group ID for account management). Therefore it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify WINCHELL to include the teachings of LAURSEN, since such a modification would allow a plurality of groups (point-to-multipoint in view of WINCHELL) to be managed using a single account manager. Furthermore, associating a subscriber to a particular service within a database (e.g. through the use of an HLR) is conventional in the art that allows a home system to determine subscriber services available to an individual.

Regarding claim 21, see the rejections of the parent claim concerning the subject matter this claim is dependent upon. WINCHELL further discloses wherein said point-to-multipoint service data base entity comprises: a receiver for receiving from a mobile station a request for accessing a point-to-multipoint service (paragraph 37, 38, 43;), said request comprising a subscriber identifier of the subscriber placing the request and

a point-to-multipoint service identifier of the point-to-multipoint service for which access is being requested, a processor for providing accounting information to an accounting entity of said mobile communication network, said accounting information identifying the subscriber placing the request, together with the point-to-multipoint service for which access was requested (paragraph 37, 38, 43). It is further noted that a receiver, memory and processor would inherently be necessary to process and stored detailed billing records and account information.

5. Claims 2, 3, 7, and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over WINCHELL et al (US 2002/0151321 A1) in view of LAURSEN et al (US 2001/0041556 A1) and further in vie of HERZOG et al., IEEE/ACM Transactions of Networking, Vol. 5, No. 6, "Sharing the "Cost" of Multicast Trees: An Axiomatic Analysis" (hereinafter HERZOG).

Regarding claim 2, see the rejections of the parent claim concerning the subject matter this claim is dependent upon. WINCHELL further discloses wherein in addition to identifying a point-to-multipoint service, said accounting information indicates a number of subscribers (paragraph 37, 38; detailed account listing of users and billing). However, the combination of WINCHELL and LAURSEN does not expressly disclose wherein said indicated number corresponding to all or a predetermined part of the subscribers currently stored in association with said point-to-multipoint service. In the same field of endeavor, HERZOG discloses wherein an indicated number corresponding to all or a predetermined part of the subscribers currently stored in association with said point-to-multipoint service (page 847, abstract, Section I

(paragraph 2-4), Section II (paragraph 1-2); page 851, section IV-B; cost allocation dependent on upstream and downstream receivers). Therefore it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the combination of WINCHELL and LAURSEN to include the teachings of HERZOG, since HERZOG states that such a modification would provide cost association based on a receivers network usage.

Regarding claim 3, see the rejections of the parent claim concerning the subject matter this claim is dependent upon. The combination of WINCHELL, LAURSEN, and HERZOG further discloses wherein said accounting information depends on the indicated number of subscribers (HERZOG - page 847, page 847, abstract, Section I (paragraph 2-4), Section II (paragraph 1-2); page 851, section IV-B).

Regarding claim 7, see the rejections of the parent claim concerning the subject matter this claim is dependent upon. However, the combination of WINCHELL and LAURSEN does not expressly disclose wherein said accounting is performed differently for data transported from the mobile communication network to the mobile station than for data transported from the mobile station to the mobile communication network. In the same field of endeavor, HERZOG discloses wherein said accounting is performed differently for data transported from the mobile communication network to the mobile station than for data transported from the mobile station to the mobile communication network (page 847, page 847, abstract, Section I (paragraph 2-4), Section II (paragraph 1-2); page 851, section IV-B; cost allocation dependent on upstream and downstream receivers). Therefore it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art

at the time the invention was made to modify the combination of WINCHELL and LAURSEN to include the teachings of HERZOG, since HERZOG states that such a modification would provide cost association based on a receivers network usage.

Regarding claim 8, see the rejections of the parent claim concerning the subject matter this claim is dependent upon. The combination of WINCHELL, LAURSEN, and HERZOG further discloses wherein billing is only performed for data transported from the mobile communication network to the mobile station or performed for data transported from the mobile station to the mobile communication network (WINCHELL – paragraph 37, 38; HERZOG - page 847, page 847, abstract, Section I (paragraph 2-4), Section II (paragraph 1-2); page 851, section IV-B; WINCHELL discloses billing based on usage, while HERZOG teaches that usage cost can be associated by either an upstream or downstream usage). Furthermore, it has been held that the omission of an element and its function in a combination where the remaining elements perform the same functions as before involves only routine skill in the art. *In re Karlson*, 136 USPQ 184.

6. Claims 4 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over WINCHELL et al (US 2002/0151321 A1) in view of LAURSEN et al (US 2001/0041556 A1) and HERZOG et al., IEEE/ACM Transactions of Networking, Vol. 5, No. 6, "Sharing the "Cost" of Multicast Trees: An Axiomatic Analysis" (hereinafter HERZOG), and further in view of BRISCOE et al (US 2005/0286488).

Regarding claim 4, see the rejections of the parent claim concerning the subject matter this claim is dependent upon. The combination of WINCHELL, LAURSEN, and

HERZOG further discloses wherein said accounting information comprises billing and a billing decreases with an increasing indicated number of subscribers (WINCHELL – paragraph 37, 38; HERZOG - page 847, page 847, abstract, Section I (paragraph 2-4), Section II (paragraph 1-2); page 851, section IV-B; WINCHELL discloses billing based on usage, while HERZOG teaches that usage cost can be associated by either an upstream or downstream usage and cost to individual receivers can be decreased based on decrease usage compared to associated number of subscribers). However, the combination of WINCHELL, LAURSEN, and HERZOG does not disclose the use of a billing tariff. In the same field of endeavor, BRISCOE discloses wherein an accounting comprises billing and a billing tariff (abstract; paragraph 6, 37, 56). Therefore it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the combination of WINCHELL, LAURSEN, and HERZOG to include the teachings of BRISCOE, since BRISCOE states that such a modification would allow a varied tariff to a plurality of users based on a determined usage parameter.

Regarding claim 5, see the rejections of the parent claim concerning the subject matter this claim is dependent upon. The combination of WINCHELL, LAURSEN, and HERZOG further discloses wherein said accounting comprises payment and a payment increases with an increasing indicated number of subscribers (WINCHELL – paragraph 37, 38, 45, 46). However, the combination of WINCHELL, LAURSEN, and HERZOG does not disclose the use of a payment tariff. In the same field of endeavor, BRISCOE discloses wherein an accounting information comprises payment and a payment tariff

increase (abstract; paragraph 6, 37, 56). Therefore it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the combination of WINCHELL, LAURSEN, and HERZOG to include the teachings of BRISCOE, since BRISCOE states that such a modification would allow a varied tariff to a plurality of users based on a determined usage parameter.

7. Claims 16-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over WINCHELL et al (US 2002/0151321 A1) in view of LAURSEN et al (US 2001/0041556 A1) and further in view of WAHL et al (US 2002/0089985).

Regarding claim 16, see the rejections of the parent claim concerning the subject matter this claim is dependent upon. Although WINCHELL teaches the use of encryption and authorization, the combination of WINCHELL and LAURSEN does not expressly disclose wherein said access enabling procedure comprises: sending one or more decryption keys to the mobile station from which the request for accessing a point-to-multipoint service was sent. In a similar field of endeavor, WAHL teaches wherein an access enabling procedure comprises: sending one or more decryption keys to a mobile station from which a request for accessing a point-to-multipoint service was sent (paragraph 6, 17). Therefore it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the combination of WINCHELL and LAURSEN to include the teachings of WAHL, since such a modification would provide a secure connection between various communication links in a multicast system.

Regarding claim 17, see the rejections of the parent claim concerning the subject matter this claim is dependent upon. The combination of WINCHELL, LAURSEN, and

WAHL further discloses wherein an individual decryption key is provided in dependence on one or more of: each stored subscriber identification, each stored point-to-multipoint service identification, and each pair of a subscriber identification and point-to-multipoint service identification stored in association (WAHL – paragraph 6, 17, each subscriber requesting connection is provided a decryption key).

Regarding claim 18, see the rejections of the parent claim concerning the subject matter this claim is dependent upon. The combination of WINCHELL, LAURSEN, and WAHL further discloses wherein said one or more decryption keys are generated dynamically in response to receiving said request for accessing a point-to-multipoint service (WAHL – paragraph 6, 17).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ARIEL BALAOING whose telephone number is (571)272-7317. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, V. Paul Harper can be reached on (571) 272-7605. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/VINCENT P. HARPER/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2617

/Ariel Balaoing/
Examiner, Art Unit 2617

/A. B./
Examiner, Art Unit 2617